

8/23/12

A Discourse On

Free Will

True free will is a wonderful human faculty!

It is such a precious possession that God gave man (Adam), and angels. Sadly, Adam lost it for himself, and all mankind, when he sinned, but God restores it to those he redeems. It must be the single greatest freedom and responsibility that he could ever give to man, as part of his being made in the image of God.

It was God's design to make man lord of the earth, creating him with the ability to do everything that would ever be required, or desired--having the independence to make every decision of his life that he might be confronted with, yet always respectfully subject to God's will, and authority.

In the eternally consequential test that Adam was given, if he had made the right choice, in willing obedience to God, he and all his posterity would have become immortal--never to sin, that is, to defile themselves, or dishonor God in any way!

The circumstances involved in Adam's transgression of God's commandment to him are right for us to speculate about. There are compelling questions to consider. But, before we look at the situation from Adam's standpoint, or ours, it is more important to think about it from God's end. Because, if we question an action, i.e., a commandment of God, we risk questioning Him!

If, however, we are anchored in the truth that God is perfect, and would not, because he could not, make a wrong decision, we will be careful to always put the construction on a decision, or act of God, that fully vindicates Him! And, no doubt should remain as a question in any way of God's actions, or character, but only as something unanswered, because He has not revealed it! Deut. 29:29.

As difficult as it may seem to be to understand a particular thing that God may have done, unless we can prove, or somehow be positive that God acted wrong,

even imperfectly in some instance, we must conclude that God did not err! Why? Because consistent with His perfect nature, He is infallible! Don't allow yourself any doubt about any of His unlimited attributes!

Even as Christians, our fallen, old natures adversely affect every judgment we may make. For example, we cannot be as offended by, and fully hate sin like God does, because of our having lived under the dominion of the "law of sin and death", which is not eradicated, but strives against our new, spiritual natures, as long as we live on earth.

When Adam refused to obey God, being the organic and federal representative, or head of the human race, he was entirely without excuse, or any valid extenuating circumstances, including the temptation by the serpent (an instrument of Satan), or Eve's transgression in yielding to him, and partaking of the forbidden fruit. Adam, and Eve possessed every moral and mental resource, and enabling power to resist evil temptation, and do the right thing, in willing obedience to God.

Remembering again, God's perfection, nothing He did in connection with Adam's test, was in any way, less than what was fully adequate for the required result. In his free will capacity, it was a supreme privilege, and responsibility that Adam had--to faithfully, and independently honor God, and reject Satan's temptation, and not to act in self-serving interest, which would be sin! While he wasn't apparently trying to exalt himself against God, as Satan did, it was nonetheless a defiant act!

Reflection on Adam's transgression, should help us understand something of the seriousness of God's requirements of Christians to be faithful to Him, in everything of life! And, other than the direct reverence, and worship which we owe Him, nothing else is more important than respect for His doctrinal revelations--to the extent that we are humbled by the authority of His word, and faithful in our responsibility to study and learn its true meanings.

The gospel, being the doctrinal foundation of our Christian life, makes it essential for us to know and appreciate its principles. The absolute truths of the gospel exalt God's divine will, sovereignty, holiness, righteousness, love and

mercy--to name but a few of His perfect attributes, and infinite capacity to administer, and control every element of His vast, complex universe; whether living, or inanimate!

The relevance between Adam's transgression, and Christians' wholesale adoption of a false gospel can be seen in the effects of those acts of disobedience to God. The eternal, and temporal consequences of Adam's one act of sin, are such overwhelming serious results, that a Christian should be taught by such an extreme example to always take God's commandments, and warnings, literally!

But, what have most Christians done that is gravely wrong in the history of the church? They have listened to, and heeded other voices than God's, and capitulated to the temptations of Satan, believing false teaching of the gospel! Which has to mean they were "walking (thinking, and acting) in the flesh", not the Spirit! What else, too, but a grievous misuse, and abuse of their free will privilege, and responsibility!

Since a great majority of the church believes in "another gospel", it has long ago become a largely unspiritual, corrupted institution, living and perpetuating a lie, and being utterly deceived into assuming that they serve and represent the Lord! When, in fact, they serve the great deceiver!

If that seems to be an unjust, and untrue criticism, it is not only proven to be true, but prophesied in Rev. 2 and 3, especially the end-time depiction of the church of Laodicea! If a Christian is wrong in such fundamental doctrine as his gospel beliefs, and therefore unspiritual in that respect, how can he be spiritual in other areas of his life?

If certain political actions are deemed to be treasonous violations of a civil constitution, why wouldn't belief in a false gospel be treasonous acts against the spiritual constitution of the Bible? A soldier who is traitorous to his country, certainly doesn't remain in good standing with the Army, and allowed to continue serving, as if nothing happened, There would be appropriate court action taken to deal with the offense.

But, in a church filled with heretical believers, their constitution fits their warped theology, so to them there is no cause for judgment or discipline. It makes a mockery of some of the very scriptural principles instituted by God to keep the church faithful to Him, and to each other!

A brief, but extremely serious point to be made as to the effect that a single act of sin (disobedience to God) can have, is: 1.

Adam's sin plunged the world into condemnation, except for those ordained to be saved from it.

2. The great majority of Christians who believe an untrue gospel, have put the church in a state of corruption! In other words, they let themselves be infected with the virus of false gospel doctrine. Furthermore, they adamantly refuse true diagnosis of their delusive condition, and will not take the antidote, or cure that only repentance, and reformation can provide!

But, let no one think that because Adam, and most Christians misused their free will power, that their ability to resist the abuse of it was not strong enough to overcome the temptation involved. 1 Cor. 10:13.

A plea of ignorance, as in "I didn't know that I (and practically everyone I knew of) believed the wrong things about the gospel", or by putting the blame on others, like trusting their pastor, or "the devil made me do it", will not be accepted as any excuse for failure to obediently and faithfully follow the Lord, directly, in His word!

It seems like a simple rule to follow, that we should never trust anyone for what we are personally responsible to God for! If that principle had been carefully followed by every Christian, from the beginning of his Christian life, the church wouldn't have been essentially ruined, like it is!

But, that principle cannot be fulfilled, unless one understands that it requires continual commitment to "walk in the Spirit", and not in the flesh (natural intellect). The latter method of reasoning is what produced the Arminian concept, which is the gospel according to man, not God!

The church's preoccupation with the misguided assumption of universally

available, free will salvation, has preempted the teaching of principles that God has established for Christians to learn how to progressively live according to the new spiritual nature he gives us. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (my new nature), hath made me free from the law of sin and death (my old nature)". Rom. 8:2. And, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit". Gal. 5:25.

I can say, too, that the evidence abounds that most Christians live mainly according to the ways of the "old man" vs. the "new man", or in the flesh instead of the Spirit. Hence, the historical decline of the church from the beautiful testimony of the unity of "one heart, one mind, and one accord" of the original and early churches, to a worthless consensus of belief in a perverted gospel, conceived by the dictates of the natural, unrenewed mind of the "flesh".

Someone asked me how I can say the same thing so many ways, and times. I said that the church, and most of its outreach has been saturated with the preaching, and teaching of a contrived gospel for a long time, so it is necessary to expose it, and counter it with the truth, as long as the problem exists. Which means that error has had much more publicity (testimony) than the truth has--being, therefore, a severe detriment to the churches, and their relationship with the Lord. Rev. 3:17-20.

But, notwithstanding the mass dishonor, and disobedience to God, it has had no effect on God's plan of salvation, or any other decrees of His sovereign will. They are all executed by Him, with no human action required!

